Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CU-04 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /029 W

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P 221515Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7890 INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, SCUL, IS
SUBJECT: VOLAG INTEREST IN NEW WEST BANK EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING
PROGRAMS

REF: A. STATE 192035 B. JERUSALEM 1294

1. THE EMBASSY'S VIEW OF THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROGRAM DIFFERS IN SEVERAL RESPECTS FROM THOSE CONTAINED IN REF B. WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION:

A. WE THINK THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOI WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR WEST BANK AND U.S. TRAINING, THEY MIGHT LOOK UNFAVORABLY ON USE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN OR AUB. ISRAELI AUTHORITIES COULD WELL SEE THIS AS THE USE OF U.S. MONEY TO FINANCE STUDY AT INSTITUTIONS WHICH WOULD RADICALIZE WEST BANK ARAB STUDENTS.

B. ANERA IS THE GOI'S LEAST FAVORITE VOLAG. TO THE EXTENT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS LINKED, EVEN INDIRECTLY, WITH ANERA, ISRAELI SENSITIVITY WILL BE AROUSED. WE WONDER IF AFME, TO ISRAELI EYES, WOULD APPEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE GOOD CHOICE AS A NEUTRAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PROGRAM. WE WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE VISIT BY AFME OR ANY OTHER AGENCY REP. UNTIL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON ON WHO WILL RUN THE PROGRAM.

3. THESE COMMENTS ARE NOT MEANIT TO SOUND DISCOURAGING ABOUT THE PROGRAM ITSELF BUT TO POINT OUT POSSIBLE

PROBLEM AREAS. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT MUCH TROUBLE CAN BE AVERTED IF THE PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS AVOID FEEDING THE ISRELI TENDENCY TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE VOLAGS ARE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO STIR UP TROUBLE.

4. WE HAVE INFORMALLY QUERIED THE MFA (GONEN) FOR ITS VIEWS ON AFME AND EXPECT A RESPONSE WITHIN A FEW DAYS. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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